

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 16-20, and 22-46 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-46 were presented for examination. Claims 7, 11-15, and 21 have been cancelled by amendment.

In the office action mailed September 2, 2005 (the "Office Action"), the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-20, and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,301,666 to Rive (the "Rive patent"). The Examiner further rejected claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Rive patent in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030033606 to Puente *et al.* (the "Puente application"). Claims 7, 21, 25, 30, 34, 36, 37, 41, and 44-46 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Rive patent in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030135350 to Cheston *et al.* (the "Cheston application").

As previously discussed, the Examiner has relied on the Puente application for rejecting claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and relied on the Cheston application for rejecting claims 7, 21, 25, 30, 34, 36, 37, 41, and 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Neither of these applications are proper prior art references. The Puente application has a priority date of August 7, 2001. As set forth in the previous submitted declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131, the claimed invention was conceived prior to August 7, 2001 and diligently reduced to practice thereafter. Consequently, the Puente reference cannot be relied upon as prior art, and the rejection of claim 33 should be withdrawn. The Cheston application has a priority date of January 15, 2002. The filing date of the present application is August 17, 2001, almost five months earlier than the filing of the Cheston patent. Thus, the Cheston patent cannot be relied upon as prior art, and the rejection of claims 7, 21, 25, 30, 34, 36, 37, 41, and 44-46 should be withdrawn.

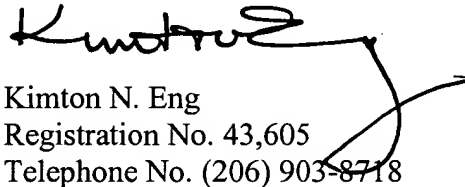
Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations similar to those recited in claim 7, and claim 16 has been amended to include limitations similar to those recited in claim 21. Both of claim 7 and 21 were rejected in the Office Action for obviousness relying on the Cheston patent. As previously discussed, the Cheston patent cannot be relied upon as prior art due to the earlier filing date of the present application. Therefore, amended claims 1 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-6 and 8-10, which depend from claim 1, claims 17-20 and 22-24, which depend from claim 16, claims 26-33, which depend from claim 25, claims 35 and 36, which depend from claim 34, claims 38-43, which depend from claim 37, and claims 45 and 46, which depend from claim 44, are similarly allowable based on their dependency from a respective allowable base claim.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Postcard

Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

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